

Remarks/Arguments:

The present invention relates to a recording/reproducing apparatus which compresses video and audio signals in a plurality of different bit rates. Specifically, there is also management information which is recorded in response to a user interrupting reproduction.

On page 2, the Official Action rejects claims 1-10, 12-16, 20-23 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okita (JP 2001-169250) in view of Yogeshwar et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0096110). It is respectfully requested, however, that the claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant's invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... a recording unit that records, in correspondence to said record management information, reproduction management information including reproduction-interruption information for defining a point of interruption in time when a user interrupts a reproduction of said video signals ...

wherein said video signals are decoded ... from said point of interruption in time ...

Claim 1 relates to reproduction interruption information which denotes a point in time when a user interrupts reproduction of a video signal. This reproduction interruption information is recorded and used at a later time. Specifically, at a later time when a user wishes to resume reproduction, the reproduction interruption information allows the video to be reproduced from the point in time when the user previously interrupted reproduction. This feature is found in the originally filed application on page 30 and in Fig. 4B. No new matter has been added.

Stated in the specification on page 30, it is described that when a user interrupts reproduction of a video, reproduction interruption information is recorded ("when the AV data recording and reproducing apparatus 1 stops playing the broadcast program ... the recording section 120 records elapsed time from the

beginning of the program on to the DVD-RAM disc 131 as reproduction-interruption information."). For example, if the user interrupts the reproduction of the video signal after 10 minutes from the beginning, the recording section 120 records the value of 10 minutes as reproduction-interruption information. This is supported in Fig. 4B where an elapsed time of 10 minutes is recorded as reproduction-interruption information. Therefore, when a user wishes to reproduce the video at a later time, the recorded reproduction-interruption information is utilized by the apparatus to start reproduction from the interruption time ("*... when the user goes outdoors ... he or she inserts the DVD RAM disc 131, which was ejected from the AV recording and reproducing apparatus 1, into the portable video player 2 ... reproducing section 121 reads the reproduction interruption information from the DVD RAM disc 131*"). Thus, by recording reproduction-interruption information, a user is able to reproduce the video signal from the point in time at which they had previously interrupted reproduction.

In paragraph 94, Okita teaches interruption of a video signal. Specifically, Okita teaches an example wherein reproduction is interrupted in the middle of a chapter of a DVD. However, when the user wants to reproduce the video, the reproduction is started from the beginning of the chapter (not at the point of interruption in the middle of the chapter). This is recited in paragraph 94 and 95 of Okita ("*if viewing and listening is interrupted in the middle of a chapter last time, next transmission will be good ... from the head of the chapter also as the specified quantity ... since the head position of this chapter is included in the reproduction information ... it is not necessary to carry out operation in which a user searches and specifies a chapter head one by one*"). Thus, Okita interruption information is not a point in time when the reproduction is interrupted, but rather the beginning of the chapter in which the DVD was interrupted. Thus, Okita's point of interruption is not actually the point in time of interruption wherein the user interrupts the reproduction (he can not reproduce from the middle of the chapter, he only reproduces from the beginning).

On page 3, the Official Action states that Yogeshwar discloses video signals being compressed in a plurality of different bit rates. Specifically, the Examiner cites Fig. 5, element 519 and decoders 520-522 in Yogeshwar. In paragraph 107,

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Yogeshwar suggests that these decoders are able to decode data that has been encoded in different schemes such as MPEG and JPEG. Yogeshwar, however, does not suggest that the different encoded pieces of data have the same contents. An MPEG encoded signal and JPEG signal would not have the same contents because one is a movie and the other one is a picture. Thus, Applicant respectfully disagrees that Yogeshwar suggests Applicant's feature of the video signals having the same contents being compressed in a plurality of different bit rates.

Furthermore, the Official Action states that paragraph 58 of Yogeshwar teaches association information similar to Applicant's record management information, which denotes a mutual association between the signals. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner. Yogeshwar's associated parameters are not suggested to show a mutual association between the video signals that are compressed in different bit rates. Specifically, Yogeshwar's associated parameters would not denote a mutual association between the signals being compressed in a plurality of different bit rates because the signals do not have the same contents (one is MPEG movie and the other one is JPEG picture).

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Independent claims 16, 20, 25 and 26 include similar features to claim 1. Thus, these claims are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

Claims 18, 19 and 27 have been cancelled.

Dependent claims 2-15, 17, 21, 22 and 23 include all of the features of the claims from which they depend. Thus, these claims are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

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In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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